

Emergency Management Council

2001 Annual Assessment Report To Governor Gary Locke For a copy of this report, please contact:

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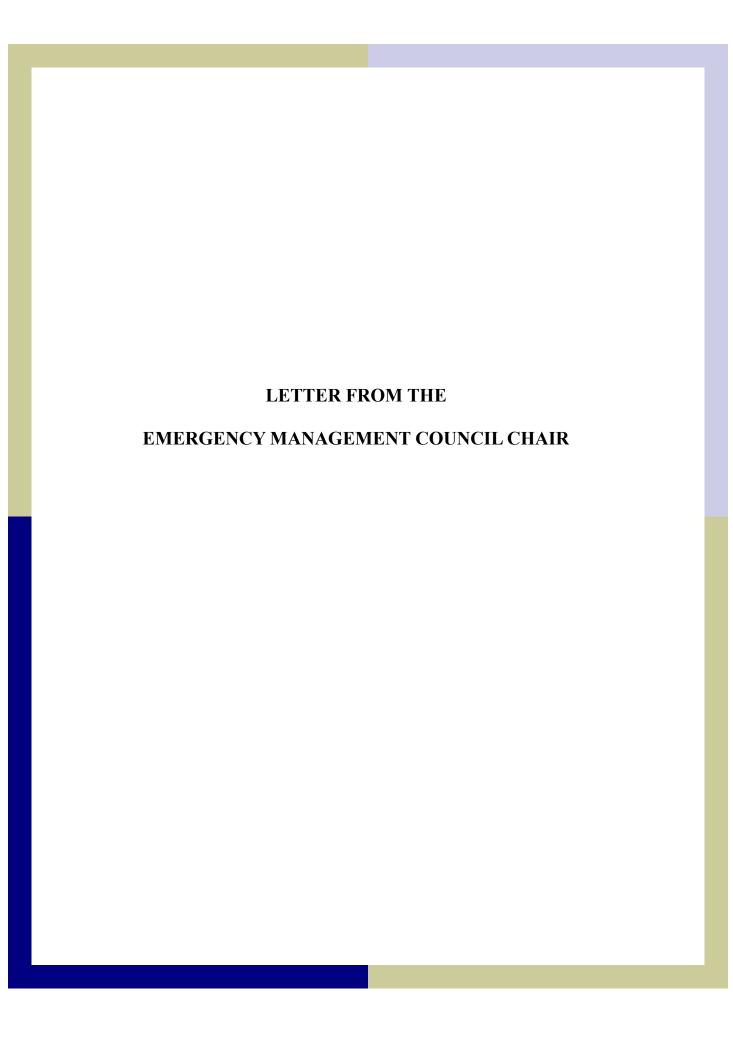
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Letter From The Chair EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

Dear Governor Locke:

I am pleased to present the 2001 Annual Assessment Report for the Washington State Emergency Management Council, as required by RCW 38.52.040. Last year was a significant year for disasters. Washington State experienced an earthquake, drought, floods, and extensive fires. In addition, our country felt the devastating effects of terrorism with the tragic events of September 11, 2001.

This report highlights key 2001 activities of the various disciplines represented on the Council and their recommendations for the future. Homeland Security has refocused the Council's responsibilities and its efforts on emergency management. Our approach will remain one of "All Hazards"; but will continue to include a major focus on weapons of mass destruction and terrorism. This tactic will enhance and maintain the ability to respond to all disasters and emergencies while promoting the efficient use of scarce resources. State and local governments have made significant progress in improving our emergency preparedness, response, and recovery, but much remains to be done to complete effective assessments and comprehensive plans, and to build needed capacity to respond.

The Emergency Management Council continues to provide a unique and critical opportunity for the very people charged with managing emergencies or providing technical advice from different agencies and levels of government and the private sector, to work as one body in evaluating the risks to our state and advising the Governor and others as to the adequacy of state and local plans in meeting those risks. Increasingly we also find that the Council and its standing committees are taking on a much more significant role of coordination and facilitation of solutions which support the professional emergency management community. One example of this is the strong partnership the Council and its committees have developed with the federal government, including advisory membership from FEMA, the FBI, and other federal entities.

The Emergency Management Council will continue to assess and amend its mission and strategic goals as events and challenges dictate. We remain committed to working together with a common goal of protecting the citizens of Washington State from disasters.

Sincerely,

Thomas Green

Chair, Emergency Management Council

Thomas as seen

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY Key Risks and Shortfalls * **Policy Recommendations Homeland Security**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Emergency Management Council is comprised of 17 Governor-appointed individuals. As required by RCW 38.52.040, the Council shall advise the Governor and the director on all matters pertaining to state and local emergency management. The members represent city and county governments, sheriffs and police chiefs, Washington State Patrol, the Military Department, the Department of Ecology, state and local fire chiefs, seismic safety experts, state and local emergency management directors, search and rescue volunteers, medical professionals with expertise in emergency medical care, building officials, and private industry.

The emergency needs of the state's communities are increasing. During the 1980s Washington State received federal declarations for ten disasters. The state saw a dramatic increase in the 1990s with 24 federal disaster declarations, plus many local and regional events that did not receive federal declarations. Disasters cause severe impacts to the state, counties, and cities, as well as to businesses and individuals. In the first year of this decade, the 2001 Nisqually Earthquake realized damages upward of \$1 billion. Emergency management planning is crucial to reduce or eliminate the effects of disasters and emergencies. We can either pay now or pay later, and experience has shown us it is less costly to prevent, or mitigate, than it is to repair.

KEY RISKS AND SHORTFALLS

Mitigation, Preparedness, Response, and Recovery are critical elements to emergency management programs. Deficiencies in these elements can pose substantial threats to first responders and the public and increase the risk for loss of life and property of Washington's citizens.

The goal of *Mitigation* is to minimize or eliminate the impacts of future disasters. Mitigation lessens a disaster's damaging effects and reduces future disaster costs. *Preparation* provides for an effective emergency management response system that can respond quickly and efficiently. *Response and Recovery* is the ability to adequately respond to and recover from disastrous events.

INTEROPERABILITY:

Interoperability is the ability of various systems

to communicate with each other. The systems include radio, telephone, and data communications. We are reliant on a vulnerable telecommunications-based infrastructure. In emergency situations there are several layers of communications required between various agencies. These layers include city and county emergency operation centers (EOCs), the state EOC, EOCs for various state agencies, first responders, FEMA, emergency decision makers in the public and private sectors, and the general public.

Due to the lack of interoperability, significant adverse impacts will occur if an emergency response to a major disaster requires a joint coordination effort with state, federal, or local agencies.

There is no centralized network or infrastructure to support the interoperability requirements that would allow seamless communication between multiple state and local agencies.

- ➤ Mutual aid agreements frequently do not address telecommunication interoperability issues.
- Many of the communication and information systems currently in place are antiquated and no longer supported by manufacturers. Accurate and timely information is sometimes delayed or is not available.
- The ability to transmit secure, confidential information between authorized officials is limited or nonexistent.
- Telephone systems are sufficient for day-to-day operations, but not for the increased demands that may occur during a disaster or emergency. Immediately following the 2001 Nisqually Earthquake the ability to make local area telephone calls was almost nonexistent. People discovered they could call long distance, but not across town. Cell phones were also largely useless for a period of time.
- Radio interoperability is most successful at the first responder and dispatch center level within a jurisdictional boundary, but not outside of this boundary or during complex operations. Local fire departments frequently operate on communication frequencies that are incompatible with other fire departments.

PLANNING, TRAINING, AND EQUIPMENT:

The war on terrorism has caused a shift in funding focus and has increased the demands placed upon already strained budgets. The increased demands have created overall inconsistencies in plan development and training for state and local agencies. These shortfalls are also affecting the volunteer agencies that are relied upon during emergencies and disasters, such as Search and Rescue (SAR).

Several cities and counties lack welldeveloped emergency plans. This lack of emergency plans includes how to respond to and manage large numbers of casualties in bioterrorism events.

- Not all state agencies and local governments have disaster recovery plans.
- Responders (law enforcement, fire, and SAR) have dedicated funding to support known disasters or emergency activities, however, the increased costs associated with terrorism preparedness measures were not covered in 2001.
- State and local agencies rely on volunteer SAR personnel to supplement, or perform, SAR operations. There are fewer training programs being funded and in some instances, such as terrorism response, training for 2001 was nonexistent.
- ➤ Building, state, and city officials; sheriffs and police chiefs, the State Fire Marshal's office, and Washington State Patrol are all affected by budget reductions for training and equipment. During 2001 upgrades and replacements were postponed or cancelled.
- Even after many years of effort, much of the public is still largely unaware of their responsibility when a disaster occurs. They tend to be confused about the assistance to expect and what may be required of them until that assistance arrives.

PUBLIC HEALTH:

The healthcare system is largely private and nonprofit. There is very little excess capacity. Any event that generates even a moderate number of casualties would severely tax the system, possibly resulting in even more fatalities. By their very nature, disasters have the potential to create mass casualties and fatalities. While it is impossible to create instant capacity to deal completely with these challenges, we should effect improvements.

- ➤ Well-developed plans do not now exist at all levels of government to manage large numbers of casualties or to respond to a bioterrorism event.
- The state needs more epidemiological

- capacity and improved disease surveillance systems to allow experts to identify early on the presence of an unusual disease and take early action to mitigate its effects.
- The state's laboratory capacity to test a high number of samples for potential bioterrorism agents is limited.

POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

The Emergency Management Council provides a forum for coordination and consensus to occur among those responsible for emergency management and individuals with other special expertise in Washington State. The Emergency Management Council's Policy Recommendations are derived from this cross-section of professionals and are presented as required by RCW 38.52.040.

Legislators play an important role in the development of state emergency management policy. As the policy evolves to meet current needs and new threats, the state should be prepared to respond to any event.

The Emergency Management Council recommends the Governor and Legislature support legislation or budget requests that reflect the recommendations listed below. These recommendations will improve Washington's level of readiness to mitigate, prepare, respond to, and recover from emergencies and disasters; thereby improving emergency management practices and homeland security throughout the state.

MITIGATION:

- Fund and encourage critical infrastructurerelated mitigation programs. This includes modernizing and updating flood maps and adopting building codes that result in a statewide consistency in building construction.
- ➤ Incorporate hazard mitigation within the state's Growth Management Act. The goal is to restrict building in high-risk hazard areas.

PREPAREDNESS:

- Develop stable and long-term funding for state and local governments for planning and training, and to purchase and maintain equipment and communication systems. Washington is a high-hazard state for natural disasters. The war on terrorism has increased demands on systems that were already stressed.
- ➤ Provide state and local agencies with funding and resources to implement an interoperable multi-agency communication network that is essential to provide effective disaster assistance.

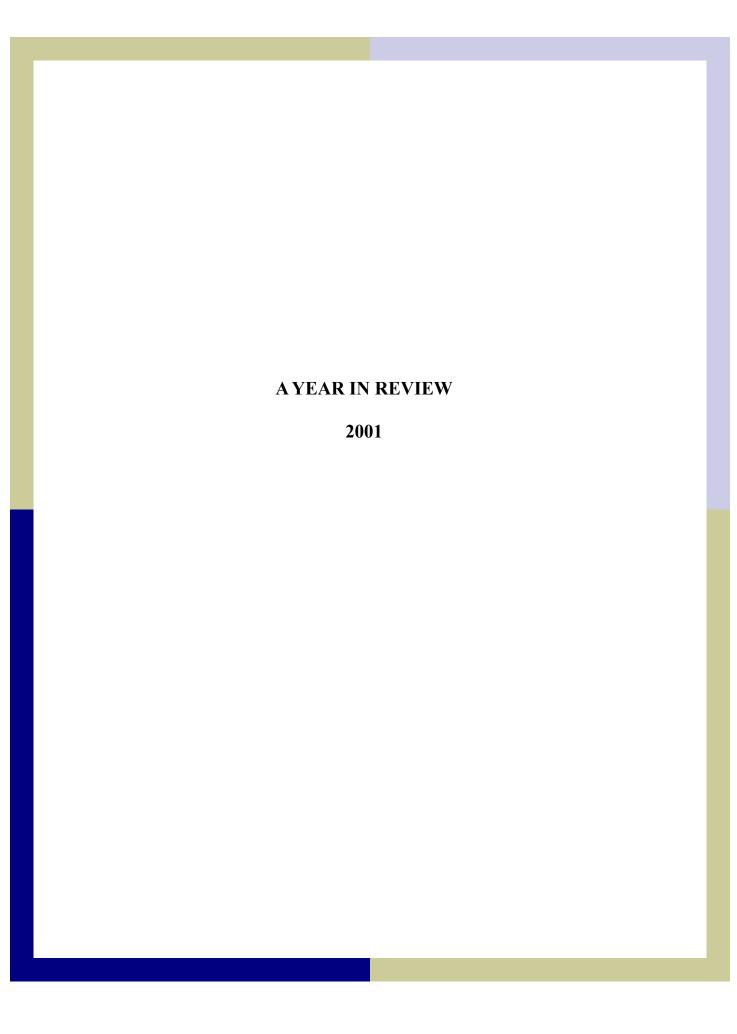
RESPONSE AND RECOVERY:

- ➤ Provide SAR organizations with funding to accomplish the training that is necessary to maintain a high level of readiness and ability.
- Improve revenue and resource support to local emergency management programs and public health so they can effectively plan for and respond to their citizens' needs during emergencies and disasters. Mandates should be funded.
- Deploy a statewide incident management system across all disciplines.

HOMELAND SECURITY

This report would be incomplete without a reference to Homeland Security and the state's counter terrorism efforts. Washington State is one of the country's leaders in emergency management programs and processes. The state's "All Hazards" approach readily adapts to include a counter terrorism focus.

- ➤ One example of the proactive philosophy in Washington was the creation of the Committee on Terrorism, before the tragic events of September 11, 2001.
- ➤ During 2001 the Committee on Terrorism worked with the US Department of Justice (DOJ) to manage and pass through Personal Protective Equipment DOJ grants to local jurisdictions for their first responders.
- The Washington Emergency Alert System (EAS) complements the federal Homeland Security Advisory System (HSAS). In May 2001 EMD and the Washington State Association of Broadcasters included child abduction alerts (the AMBER alert program).
- The HSAS is part of the state's mitigation preparedness. This preparedness includes a system of response plans that are in place at the federal, state, and local levels and are tied to threat advisories.
- ➤ Our future goals include: deployment of a statewide incident management system across all disciplines, establishing a state Homeland Security Task Force and a comprehensive and collaborative state Homeland Security Strategy, and developing a state Homeland Security Regional Training Institute.

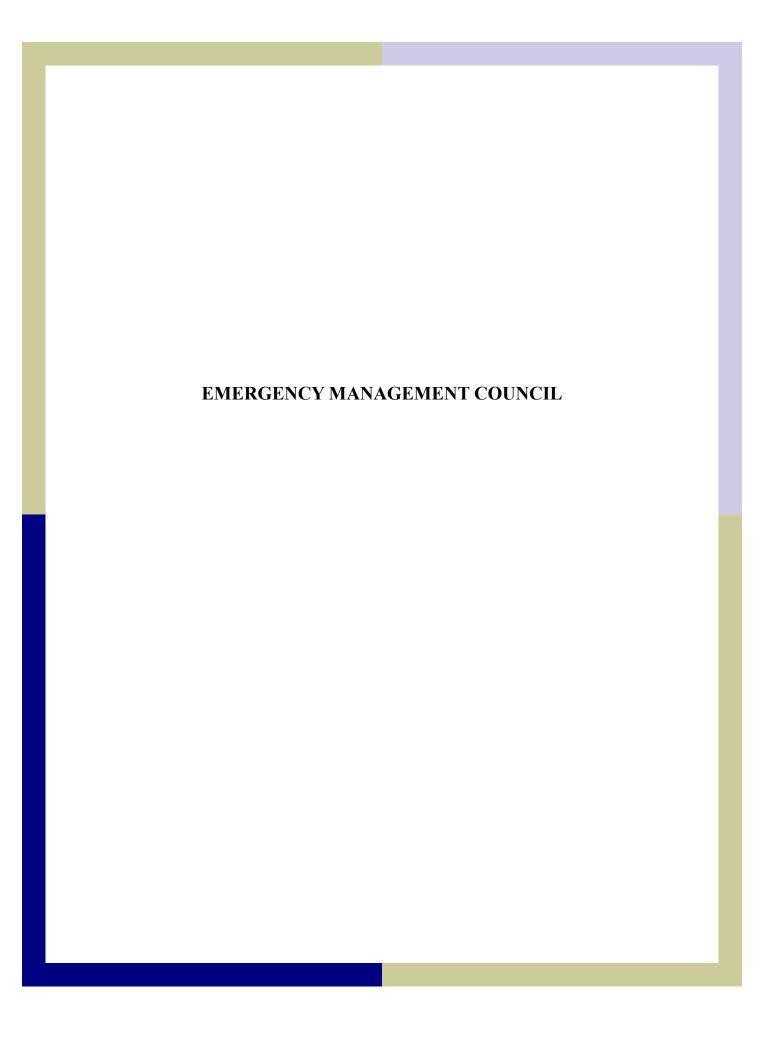


EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL - 2001

- * The Committee on Terrorism (COT) continues to monitor the state's Domestic Preparedness Equipment Program. Twenty-five counties submitted equipment purchase worksheets. The total cost to purchase equipment for these counties is \$907,000.00. The PPEs (personal protective equipment) that are purchased for each county will raise their response force and/or capability. This equipment allocation provides a cadre of responders with a basic Level B capability the county can rely on until mutual aid and/or regional/state response resources are available.
- * During the 2001 Washington legislative session, the COT provided oversight for legislation that protects sensitive planning and vulnerability analysis information from public disclosure. This legislation passed.
- * The Emergency Management Council endorsed the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program process for project selection and fund use.
- * The Emergency Management Council reinstated the Seismic Safety Committee, selected co-chairs, approved the charter, and charged the Committee to develop strategic objectives. This committee is working to enhance and maintain the Seismic Network to obtain better mapping information.
- * The State Emergency Response Commission held the first Tribal Emergency Response Commission (TERC) Hazardous Material Workshop. The TERC workshop was very successful with 24 tribal members representing 12 tribes or nations in attendance.

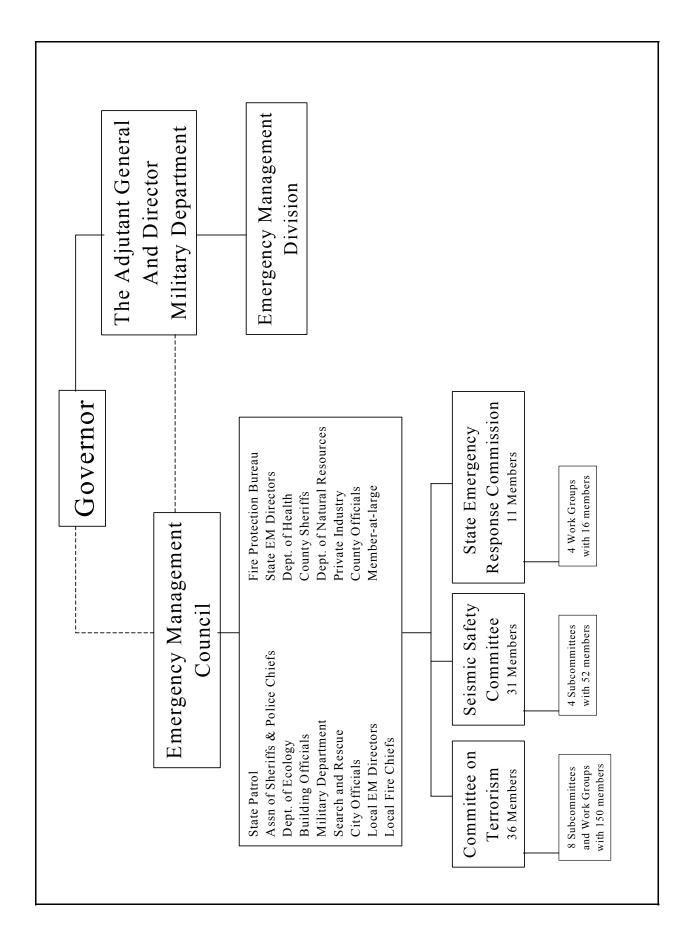
WASHINGTON STATE 2001 DISASTERS

- * February 28 Nisqually Earthquake. This was the largest disaster in Washington's history. Disaster aid registrations totaled 41,410 by the end of the calendar year. The Disaster Field Office was activated from March 1 November 1, 2001. FEMA extended the application process an unprecedented 60 days. This was the only Presidentially declared disaster for 2001.
- * July The Secretary of Agriculture declared a state of disaster for several Eastern Washington counties in response to severe drought conditions and localized heavy storms. Many counties experienced significant crop loss as a result of these disasters.
 - Several fires occurred during July, primarily on the east side of the state. These included: a 100-acre wildfire in Okanogan County, the *Libby South* fire that blackened 3,200 acres, the deadly *Thirty-Mile* fire killed four firefighters and burned more than 8,200 acres, the *Lincoln County* fire burned 400 acres, 448 acres were consumed in the *Porcupine Bay* fire, the *Port Kelly* fire burned 7,000 acres, and 400 acres were burned and one home was destroyed in the *Union Valley* fire.
- * August Many of the fires that started in July were still burning in August. The *Virginia Lakes Fire Complex* in Okanogan County started in August. 12,800 acres were consumed in the Virginia Lake and Goose Lake areas alone and a total of 73,000 acres were burned within this complex of fires. A state of emergency was declared for Chelan, Okanogan, Spokane, and Yakima Counties as a result of the July and August fires.
- * September –Terrorist attacks occurred in New York, Washington, D.C., and Pennsylvania. In Washington State the state activated the emergency operations center as a precautionary measure to ensure safety for Washington's residents.
- * November Heavy rain and storm activity caused flooding in many areas of western Washington. Numerous reports were received for localized road closures and landslides.
- * December Winter storms again caused widespread power outages, tidal surges, flooding and landslides, and high winds.



EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL MEMBERS

DISCIPLINE	MEMBERS
BUILDING OFFICIALS	Kenneth Korshaven
CITY OFFICIALS	Steve Jenkins
COUNTY OFFICIALS	Diane Oberquell
DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY	Tom Fitzsimmons
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES	Doug Sutherland
LOCAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT DIRECTORS	JoAnn Boggs
LOCAL FIRE CHIEFS	Robert Johnson
MEDICAL OFFICERS	Ron Weaver
MEMBER-AT-LARGE	Thomas Green, Chair
POLICE CHIEFS	Larry Erickson
PRIVATE INDUSTRY	Robert Zimmerman
SEARCH AND RESCUE	Art Jordan
SHERIFFS	Steve Tomson
STATE EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT DIRECTORS	Trudy Winterfeld, Vice-Chair
STATE FIRE CHIEFS	Mary Corso
WA MILITARY DEPARTMENT	Maj Gen Timothy J. Lowenberg
WASHINGTON STATE PATROL	Ronal Serpas



EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL COMMITTEES

Committee on Terrorism:

On October 5, 1999 Governor Gary Locke instructed the Emergency Management Council and the Washington Military Department to form the Committee on Terrorism. The Committee began meeting in January 2000. The purpose of the Committee on Terrorism is to develop and recommend to the Emergency Management Council statewide strategies that address threats and acts of terrorism through mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery activities.

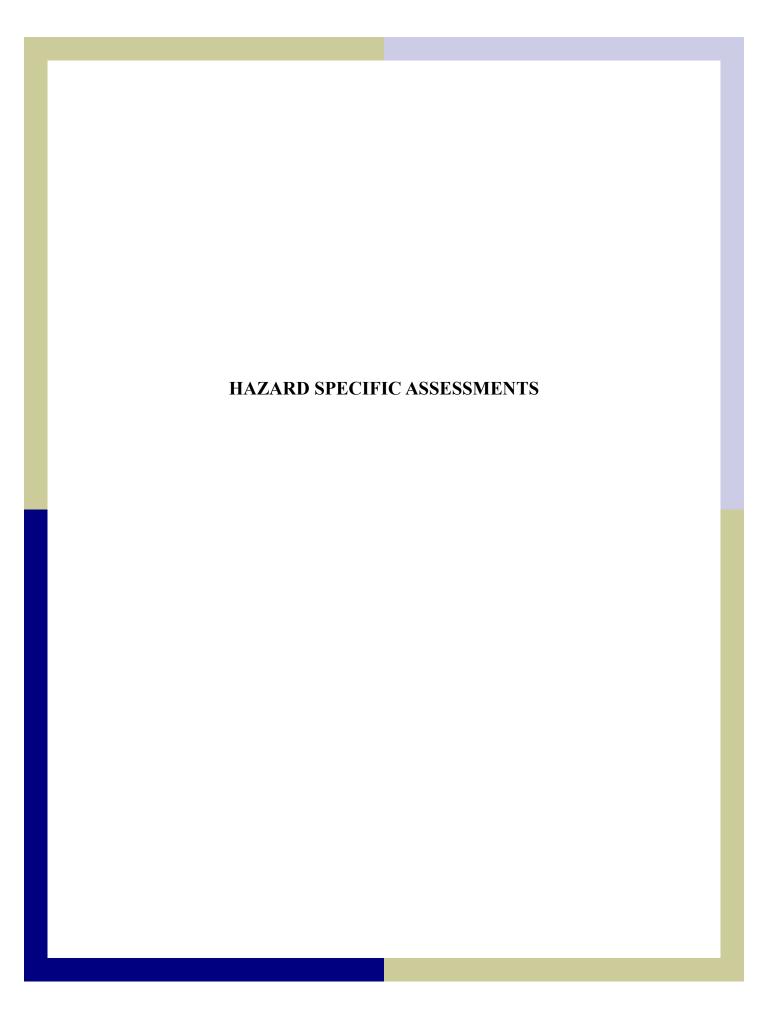
Seismic Safety Committee:

In June 1996 the Emergency Management Council established the Seismic Safety Committee. The Seismic Safety Committee provides policy recommendations to the Emergency Management Council and serves as an advocate for seismic safety issues. The Seismic Safety Committee provides an annual assessment of statewide implementation of seismic safety improvements to the Emergency Management Council.

State Emergency Response Commission:

The Emergency Management Council is state mandated by RCW 38.52.040(2) to periodically convene in special session as the State Emergency Response Commission, as required by federal mandate P.L. 99-499, the Emergency Planning and Community Right-To-Know Act.

The purpose of the State Emergency Response Commission is to develop and support state and local government programs and local university-sponsored programs that are designed to improve emergency planning, preparedness, mitigation, response, and recovery capabilities with special emphasis on hazardous chemicals.



Emergency Management Council 2001Assessment of State-Wide Emergency Preparedness

HAZARD MITIGATION – ALL HAZARDS

Washington's natural hazards include earthquakes, floods, wind and ice storms, freezing temperatures, tsunamis, and volcanoes. Technological hazards include hazardous materials and terrorism. Loss of life and property will occur as the result of any hazard. Mitigation has proven to be effective in reducing these losses.

Federal, state, and local government work together to mitigate and reduce the effects of natural and technological hazards. With a focus toward mitigation and prevention, the Emergency Management Council (EMC) has continued to support and expand the roles of the Committee on Terrorism (COT), the Seismic Safety Committee (SSC), and the State Emergency Response Commission (SERC).

Vulnerability: The entire built environment for Western Washington is very vulnerable to seismic and flood hazards. We continue to develop in flood plains and hundreds of structures have been identified as major flooding risks.

The bridge seismic retrofit program has not been completed in Western Washington and critical facilities in Eastern Washington are still pending needed work.

Risk Assessment: MEDIUM TO HIGH. Many of the natural hazards experienced in Washington are seasonal; e.g., floods, ice storms, freezing temperatures. Earthquakes occur almost daily; but are seldom of sufficient magnitude to cause major damage.

We remain at a significant risk because we continue to develop the floodplains and waterways, decreasing floodwater storage capacity and placing more structures at risk for future damage. Failure to address these issues, especially the seismic retrofit of the traffic infrastructure, will continue to create major economic impacts to the state.

Progress: Through various federal grant programs directed for mitigation, during 2001 the State of

Washington acquired and/or elevated over 100 additional homes to mitigate flooding; but the need is far greater than the funding. Funding requests for the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) for the Nisqually Earthquake exceeded \$550 million in



Home elevated to mitigate flooding.

We have made progress in mapping some of the flood hazard areas, but many of the federally supplied flood maps are more than 15 years old.

Planning, preparedness, and response information continues to be added to the Washington Emergency Management Website. This information is geared toward the general public and local jurisdictions.

FLOOD HAZARDS

In Washington flooding is the most prevalent natural hazard for residents. The principal season is midwinter and the primary threat is from the major rivers that drain the Cascades and Olympia Mountains.

Flooding occurs on both sides of the Cascade Range during the winter flood season, but the majority of flood damage involves the west-side Puget Sound lowland areas. Eastern Washington is subject to rare, but violent, summer floods. Fire-damaged watersheds can flood in the years following the fire and are exacerbated by the flash floods frequently associated with heavy rainfall.

There is an increasing risk from Pacific Coastal flooding and related erosion. In the past 20 years, the majority of presidential disaster declarations have

involved riverine floods. Urban stormwater flooding is a more common occurrence than major riverine floods, particularly in the state's more developed regions.



Flood-damaged road.

Vulnerability: The most vulnerable communities include Mt. Vernon and Burlington along the Skagit River, Centralia and Chehalis along the Chehalis River, and many smaller rural areas that are along main stem Cascade Range streams.

Public and private transportation utilities are particularly vulnerable. During November 1995 – March 1997 Washington State Department of Transportation (WDOT) incurred \$385 million in statewide damage sustained during five presidential flood disasters.

Risk Assessment: HIGH

- ➤ Private properties located in flood hazard areas are continuously at risk.
- ➤ Many of the state's lifelines, highways and rail corridors, must use or cross floodplain areas.

Progress: The EMC regularly reviews the progress of the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program's grant awards. Through various federal grant programs directed for mitigation, in 2001 the State of Washington has acquired and/or elevated over 100 homes to mitigate flooding; but the need is far greater than the funding.

- ➤ Department of Ecology (WDOE) has partnered with the Emergency Management Division (EMD) to provide \$1.5 million/year to local governments to develop and implement plans and projects that reduce flood hazards.
- ➤ WDOE and EMD established an interagency Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) to coordinate planning efforts. Hundreds of homes have been

- relocated out of flood hazard areas over the past eight years.
- ➤ WDOE has partnered with WSDOT to undertake a major effort to coordinate state activities aimed at flood hazard reduction. These activities include a focused effort on obtaining improved flood mapping that will lead to better identification and thus avoidance.

HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

The Hazardous Materials (HazMat) program and the State Emergency Response Commission (SERC) develop and support state and local government programs to improve emergency planning, preparedness, mitigation, response, and recovery capabilities for disasters that involve hazardous materials.

Hazardous materials include chemicals, quantities, and spills.

- ➤ Chemical hazards are compounds with properties that can produce lethal or damaging effects to humans, animals, and the environment. They can exist as solids, liquids, or gases depending on temperature and pressure.
- ➤ Very large quantities of basic and exotic chemicals are stored and transported inter and intrastate daily. The quantity and number of chemicals being transported is increasing.
- ➤ Hazardous material spills can result in significant loss of life and affect the environment for many years. The increase in transportation increases the potential for a serious incident.



Incident training exercise.

Vulnerability: A significant percentage of the annual response calls are for hazardous materials. Recent incidents have been localized and small enough for local hazmat response teams to handle.

Major transportation routes transit the most densely populated areas of the state as fuel pipelines, rail lines, and freeways. All of these transportation forms are major carriers of hazardous materials.

Methamphetamine drug labs have dramatically increased and produce significant amounts of chemical byproducts. Most of these sites are highly contaminated and require a level B or higher response.

Risk Assessment: HIGH

- ➤ There is an increase in terrorist activities, creating a very high probability of a very different form of a hazmat incident.
- ➤ The increase in hazardous material shipping increases the probability that an accident will occur resulting in a hazardous material spill.
- There is a lack of qualified hazardous material responders that leaves significant portions of the state unprotected for a quick initial response.
- ➤ We are unable to respond effectively to a large, catastrophic chemical release. In a large response local responders are quickly overwhelmed, as evidenced in the 1999 Bellingham pipeline rupture and the Fall 2001 anthrax incidences.
- ➤ Due to a lack of funding, many counties and cities do not have an operations-level response capability. This leaves those areas vulnerable to a chemical release.

Progress: The SERC worked with tribal leaders and the Emergency Management Division to develop a Tribal Emergency Response Commission (TERC) hazardous material 2-day workshop. The first workshop was held in 2001 with the specific goal to bring representatives from the tribes together and encourage them to develop local emergency response committees as TERCs. Twenty-four tribal members representing 12 tribes attended the workshop.

Seventeen counties and the Washington State Patrol received an HMEP (Hazardous Materials Emergency Preparedness) grant. Two tribes applied for HMEP

grants in 2001 and were awarded the grants in 2002. EMD and WSP used a SARA (more commonly known as the Emergency Preparedness and Community Right to Know Act [EPCRA]) grant to support HazMat responder training.

Additional grants include an SLA (State and Local Assistance) grant to fund the statewide hazmat workshop, the Pacific Northwest HazMat conference, the TERC workshop, WSEMA (Washington State Emergency Management) conference, King County Interoperability Drill, and the South Sound HazMat exercise. CERCLA (Comprehensive Emergency Response Compensation and Liability Act) funds sent four state hazmat responders to the Continuing Challenge HazMat workshop.

SEISMIC SAFETY

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) ranks Washington Number 2 in the nation for seismic risk, after California. Washington has five specific seismic risks:

➤ Intraplate or Benioff Zone Earthquakes—These earthquakes occur in the subducting Juan de Fuca plate from 25 to 100 km deep. Usually strong shakers, the largest recorded was the 1949 M7.1 in Olympia that lasted about 20 seconds. The 2001 M6.8 Nisqually earthquake lasted approximately 40 seconds. Over the last 130 years six Puget Sound Basin earthquakes of this type, M6.0 or larger, have occurred.



Seattle, WA, March 5, 2001 -- There is substantial earthquake damage in Pioneer Square, part of Seattle's historic district. FEMA News Photo by Kevin Galvin

➤ Shallow Crustal Earthquakes – Usually within 30 km of the surface, this type of earthquake occurs fairly regularly in Western Washington. A

Shallow Crustal Earthquake was in the St. Helen's seismic zone in 1981. Washington's largest earthquake, estimated at M7.4, was the 1872 North Cascades earthquake and it is generally thought to have been shallow.

- ➤ Subduction Zone (interplate) Earthquakes These are enormous, catastrophic earthquakes that occur along the interface between tectonic plates. They affect our south-coast communities. Averaging every 550 years, they are approximately M8 to M9+. The last Subduction Zone earthquake to strike Washington was about 300 years ago.
- ➤ Volcanic Activity There are five major, active, volcanoes in Washington: Mt. Baker, Glacier Peak, Mt. Rainier, Mt. St. Helens, and Mt. Adams. More than 200 eruptions have occurred over the past 12,000 years, ejecting material, lava flows, lahars (debris flows), and debris avalanches. Other enormous debris avalanches and lahars may have been caused by intrusions of magma (not eruptions) or steam explosions on the volcanoes. Except for Mt. Adams, they have all erupted within the last 250 years. Eruptions are irregular and it is difficult to forecast when an eruption will occur.
- ➤ Tsunamis People and property are at risk from Tsunamis ranging from southern British Columbia to northern California. Tsunamis are destructive waves that can be locally generated or caused by a distant source. Coastal or submarine landslides or volcanism can cause them, but large submarine earthquakes are the most common cause. Computer models indicate that tsunami waves generated by large local earthquakes could range from five to 30 feet high.

Vulnerability: Our build environment and lifelines (e.g., roads, utilities, communication systems) are at risk from seismic hazards. Ground shaking, fault ruptures, ground cracking, subsidence, liquefaction, and landslides can accompany earthquakes. The force of a tsunami wave can cause major damage to port facilities, public utilities, and community infrastructures.

Direct economic damage could be in the billions of dollars and the potential disruption to the transportation system and other lifelines could cause a significantly greater business interruption impact.

Risk Assessment: HIGH. We continue to build

communities in hazard zones, increasing the risk to people and property. The 2001 Nisqually earthquake demonstrated that mitigation efforts do reduce an earthquake's impact. However, this was a deep earthquake that was considered moderate and did not test many of buildings and infrastructures.

Progress: On June 30, 2001, Ocean Shores and Grays Harbor County were designated as the first "TsunamiReady" communities in the continental U. S. According to FEMA, "The Tsunami Ready initiative promotes tsunami hazard preparedness as an active collaboration between federal, state, and local emergency management agencies, the public, and the National Weather Service tsunami warning service."

Seismic successes include structural and nonstructural seismic strengthening and retrofitting. The EMC created the Seismic Safety Committee (SSC) in 2001 to focus on issues and develop policy and legislative recommendations. They are working to enhance and maintain the Seismic Network to obtain better mapping and information.

TERRORISM

In January 2000, the Governor directed the Emergency Management Council to create the Committee on Terrorism (COT). The committee originally consisted of 20 core members, eight advisory members, five subcommittees, and an Executive Steering Group.

Terrorism experts generally agree that terrorist incidents fit into five categories: biological, chemical, nuclear, incendiary, and explosive. These hazards can constitute a Weapon of Mass Destruction and are the primary focus for the EMC and the COT. The EMC and COT recently included Cyber Terrorism as a sixth hazard.

- ➤ Biological Agents: A serious threat because of their accessible nature and the rapid manner in which they spread. These agents are disseminated by the use of aerosols, contaminated food or water supplies, direct skin contact, or injection. They include anthrax, tularemia, cholera, the plague, and botulism. Terrorists can adapt several biological agents for weapons use.
- ➤ Chemical Agents: These compounds have unique chemical properties that can produce lethal or

damaging effects in humans, animals, and plants. They can exist as solids, liquids, or gases depending upon temperature or pressure.

- ➤ Nuclear: The use, threatened use, or threatened detonation of a nuclear bomb or device. The most likely scenario is the detonation of a large conventional explosive that incorporates nuclear material or the detonation of an explosive in close proximity to nuclear materials in use, storage, or transit.
- ➤ Incendiary Devices: These mechanical, electrical, or chemical devices are used to initiate combustion or start fires. Their purpose is to set fires to other materials or structures and may be used singularly or in combination with other devices or agents.
- ➤ Explosives: Bombs account for 70 percent of all terrorist activities worldwide. The Internet and local libraries provide information on the design and construction of explosive devices. The most common targets are residential properties.
- > Cyber Terrorism: This is a relatively new phenomenon that is used to disrupt and exploit the increasing reliance on computers and telecommunication networks. Interlinking networks regulate the flow of power, water, financial services, medical care, telecommunication, and transportation.

Vulnerability: Targets are critical facilities, sites, systems, and special events in communities that are usually located near routes with high transportation access. They can include government buildings, hospitals, schools, dams, water supplies, power systems, lifelines, historic or symbolic sites, research facilities, and chemical, industrial, or petroleum plants. First responders such as law enforcement, fire departments, and emergency medical services are also targets.

Risk Assessment: HIGH

Washington State is at risk to terrorist activities from groups that can include:

- Ethnic, separatists, and political refugees
- ➤ Left wing radical organizations
- Right wing racists, anti-authority survivalist groups

Extremist issue-oriented groups such as animal rights, environmental, religious, and antiabortionists

Our vulnerabilities place us at risk for mass patient care and fatality management, mass protective treatment to exposed populations, and environmental health clean-up procedures and plans. There is an increased frequency in the shipments of radiological materials throughout the world.

Future challenges include enhancing communication between partners, supplementing existing plans and mechanisms, increasing regional coordination, and developing a statewide public information strategy to increase awareness and understanding.

Progress: Washington State is recognized as a leader in counter-terrorism programs and initiatives. In 2001 the COT expanded to 36 members and 10 advisory members. The subcommittees were expanded to include Equipment, Training, Information, Intelligence, and Grants & Resources.

The COT has developed close partnerships with key federal agencies to include FEMA, Department of Defense, Environmental Protection Agency, Federal Bureau of Investigation, Public Health Services, and the Department of Justice (DOJ).

Working with the Department of Justice, EMD, and COT, Washington counties received \$160,000 in grants to develop assessments. Equipment standardization and interoperability for multi-million dollar purchases was achieved through a series of DOJ equipment grants.

FEMA provided counties with \$50,000 in grants for Terrorism Consequence Management Preparedness (TCMP) planning. The objectives of this program are to enhance community terrorism response planning, training, and exercising.

The existing processes and methodology plans and templates developed for successful management of other hazards also work for terrorism hazards. These plans and templates are in place in several communities and can be used to develop comprehensive counter-terrorism programs.

In 2001 the COT conducted a terrorism workshop and exercise for the Governor and several key members of his staff.

HOMELAND SECURITY

Washington State takes a comprehensive "all hazards" approach to emergency preparedness. Homeland Security is causing us to refocus our attention on weapons of mass destruction and counter terrorism, but the coordinated mutlidisciplinary, multi-jurisdictional approach required to respond to an act of terrorism is similar to that of a large-scale natural disaster.

In any emergency or disaster, the first responders, local law enforcement, firefighters, and medical professionals, are the first to arrive. First responders must be well trained to quickly assess and respond to a situation. This can mean the difference between life and death for the victims and the people in the immediate vicinity. As evidenced in the tragic events of 9/11, these professionals are our first line of defense in a terrorist attack and can quickly become victims themselves.

The Office of Homeland Security and the Office of Management and Budget have identified five categories of activities that relate to efforts to detect, deter, protect against and, if needed, respond to terrorism attacks. These categories are law enforcement and investigative activities, preparing for and responding to terrorist acts, physical security of government facilities and employees, physical protection of national populace and national infrastructure, and research and development.

Vulnerability: The vulnerabilities that would be identified in an assessment of homeland security are frequently the same vulnerabilities identified for other hazards. These include our infrastructure, high population areas, and our lifelines. The lack of up-to-date training, outdated or nonexistent interoperability equipment, personal protective equipment for all first responders, and adequate comprehensive emergency management plans exacerbates the issues that involve our vulnerabilities.

Risk Assessment: HIGH

Washington State is at risk to many hazards, both natural and man-made. Homeland Security redirects our focus to man-made events such as terrorism. These risks are more specifically detailed in the Terrorism section above.

Progress: We are making progress, but there is no short-term solution and the work required will take several years, significant coordination of effort between the different levels of government and the private sector, and large amounts of money.

Some examples of our progress are:

- ➤ FEMA, Department of Justice (DOJ), and the Office of Homeland Security have given national recognition to the COT and terrorism program. The COT and terrorism program have developed a Three-Year Statewide Domestic Preparedness Strategy that the EMC approved. The COT's work since its inception in 1999 has enhanced our preparedness for a WMD event.
- ➤ The Terrorism Program passed through more than \$169,000 to counties and cities to perform planning initiatives and perform various levels of exercises through FEMA's Terrorism Consequence Management Preparedness Grant.
- ➤ The Department of Health received a 2002 federal grant for bioterrorism preparedness and response.
- ➤ EMD's newly developed relationships with antiterrorism response agencies at the local, state, federal, and private levels in 2000 and 2001 laid the groundwork for much more intense planning, coordination, and training to address the widespread impacts of the September 11th attacks. EMD has coordinated with state and federal agencies to prepare bio-terrorism protocols for local emergency responders.



The 17 Governor-appointed representatives on the Emergency Management Council have a wide range of knowledge, expertise, and experience in the various specialty areas that are involved with emergency management.

BUILDING OFFICIALS

The Building Official's representative advises the EMC on their ability to quickly assess disaster damage; of state laws that address structure, maintenance, and the capability to withstand disasters; and building status data as related to emergency preparedness.

Emergency Preparedness Strengths: When a disaster occurs that may affect structural integrity, building officials use their expertise to assess the damage and determine if the building is safe for reentry. The Washington Association of Building Officials has created a network to facilitate communication and requests for assistance during major disasters when a large number of damage assessments must be completed. As a proactive measure, building officials train local code officials.

Shortfalls and the Impacts:

- ➤ Inadequate training that must be updated.
- An inability to mobilize assessors in a timely manner.
- A means to recruit other design professionals (architects and engineers) who can assist in the extremely high manpower needs that occur during a catastrophic event.

Timely and adequate damage assessments have not historically been a priority in state or local government plans. This impacts the ability of officials to quickly mobilize qualified personnel to assess building safety.

Slow mobilization can result in:

- The shutdown of services for citizens.
- ➤ Government employees will be unable to re-enter an exited building.
- ➤ Hospitals could be faced with the predicament of having to function in an open environment.
- ➤ People wouldn't have access to temporary shelters or their own homes because no one had inspected the building to determine safety.

COUNTY OFFICIALS

Many county officials work closely with federal, state, and local law enforcement and fire departments to develop and implement their emergency management programs. They provide the Council with information that describes the current capabilities and limitations of their jurisdiction. At this time, the core services that are directly impacted by disasters and emergencies are public safety, emergency management, and public health.

Emergency Preparedness Strengths: Some counties have integrated health department plans into their emergency management plan and some have active exercise programs to prepare for disaster response. Many counties interact with their cities on a collaborative basis.

Shortfalls and the Impacts:

- ➤ The majority of counties do not have an emergency alert system that would notify all of the residents of a disaster.
- > Well-developed emergency plans do not exist in all counties.
- ➤ The public is largely unaware of their responsibility in a disaster. They don't know what assistance to expect in an emergency and what may be required of them until that assistance arrives.
- ➤ It is difficult for many of the large rural counties to respond to an emergency or disaster in a timely manner due to the distances between the affected area and the responders.

The war on terrorism has placed new demands on all forms of government. Funding shortfalls have created inconsistencies in plan development and training.

- Many counties cannot meet the federal match requirements that are in a number of the grant programs.
- There is a lack of communication and interoperability between the various governments, law enforcement, and fire protection agencies.

Among county officials, there are inconsistencies in the amount of involvement and awareness for a county's level of emergency preparedness.

DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY

The Department of Ecology (DOE) advises the EMC on emergency spill response, environmental restoration issues, and responder equipment and training needs. Through EMC, DOE participates on the State Emergency Response Commission (SERC) and the Committee on Terrorism (COT). DOE also partners with the US Coast Guard, US EPA, and adjacent states on the Northwest Area Hazardous Materials Contingency Plan.

During an emergency the Department of Ecology (DOE) is prepared to coordinate hazardous materials, environmental pollution response and investigation, response and cleanup of drug labs, assisting in flood control planning, and damage assessments.

Emergency Preparedness Strengths:

- ➤ Hazardous material (hazmat) response teams that are regularly activated, participate in rigorous annual training regiments, and available 24-hours a day.
- ➤ Incident Command System expertise achieved through actual responses and administration of a statewide drill program for major facilities and vessels.
- An intra-agency notification protocol and dedicated transportation of health and safety equipment that efficiently mobilize personnel and equipment to aid in disasters and emergencies.

Shortfalls and the Impacts:

- Funding for counter-terrorism planning.
 Responders have dedicated funding sources to support known disaster or emergency activities; but not for the increased costs associated with terrorism preparedness measures.
- Communication. This is an issue that jeopardizes the state's ability to effectively respond to major natural or man-made disasters. We are reliant on a vulnerable telecommunications-based infrastructure. There is no centralized network or infrastructure to support the interoperability requirements that allow seamless communication between multiple state and local agencies.

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

The Department of Health (DOH) is an active participant on the EMC and the COT. In a disaster, DOH coordinates health and medical support functions for frontline healthcare providers and local public health officials. DOH reports on the impacts a disaster may have on the healthcare system, the additional resources that may be needed, and the health impacts of any hazard that may be presented.

Emergency Preparedness Strengths:

- An emergency medical system that provides high quality care in pre-hospital and hospital settings.
- Significant state military and VA resources that may be available to help large numbers of disaster casualties.
- A state public health lab that is qualified to test for nearly all bioterrorism agents.
- A well-developed plan to manage the National Pharmaceutical Stockpile.

Shortfalls and the Impacts:

- The healthcare system is largely private and nonprofit with very little excess capacity. Any event that generates even a moderate number of casualties would severely tax resources.
- ➤ Well-developed plans do not currently exist at all levels of government to manage large numbers of casualties or to respond to bioterrorism events.
- More epidemiological capacity is needed and improved disease surveillance systems to allow experts to identify early on the presence of an unusual disease and take early action to mitigate its effects.
- The state's laboratory capacity to test a high quantity of samples for potential bioterrorism agents is limited.
- ➤ We have limited ability to transmit secure, confidential, information between authorized health officials.

LOCAL FIRE CHIEFS

Local fire departments are the first responders to a multitude of emergencies that include fires, rescues from entrapment, hazardous materials response, and disasters. Fire chiefs frequently serve as Incident Commanders during mobilizations. Within the State of Washington, the Washington State Association of Fire Chiefs represents local fire chiefs and departments.

Many local fire chiefs act as the Director/ Coordinator of Emergency Management for their respective jurisdictions. The EMC representative advises the EMC about current events and issues within the fire community and is a member of the Committee on Terrorism.

Emergency Preparedness Strengths: Local fire departments are comprised of career, volunteer, and a combination of career/volunteer personnel. These firefighters bring a diversity of skills to their departments that provide them with the unique ability to handle challenging events.

- Firefighters train and operate as a team.
- Fire departments are the only entity that can mobilize large numbers of trained emergency responders within a few minutes time frame.
- ➤ Many local fire departments have automatic and mutual agreements with other state agencies.

Shortfalls and the Impacts:

- Local fire departments frequently operate on communication frequencies that are not compatible with other fire departments.
- ➤ Most local fire departments are operating with funding that is inadequate to meet the needs of their areas of responsibilities.
- ➤ Hazardous materials teams are not regionalized restricting their ability to provide protection to all of the state's citizens.

These shortfalls increase the risk for loss of life and property of citizens and increase the chance of injury or death to firefighters.

MILITARY DEPARTMENT

Role: The Washington Military Department (WMD) is a constitutionally based organization that is dedicated to safeguarding the citizens, property, environment, and economy of our state and region. The Washington National Guard (WNG) is made up of nearly 8,000 Army and Air citizen-soldiers in 44 armories and facilities in 37 communities across the state.

WMD is a multi-faceted and diverse organization that is uniquely capable of supporting Washington's citizens during emergencies. WMD includes the state's Enhanced 911 Coordination Center, the Emergency Management Division (EMD), State Services, State Defense Force (State Guard) and the Army and Air Guard.

EMD coordinates emergency management programs with local governments, public agencies, private organizations and businesses, communities, and individuals to prepare for, respond to, and recover from emergencies. WMD and EMD participate in the state's emergency operations as part of the Washington State emergency response community and maintain comprehensive and collaborative readiness and emergency response plans.

Emergency Preparedness Strengths: WNG has new challenges and missions that include Counter-Drug, Counter-Terrorism, combating Weapons of Mass Destruction, and defense of Homeland missions. The Emergency Operations Center (EOC) located within EMD operates an alert and warning center 24 hours/day. The EOC supports missions that include search and rescue operations, natural disasters such as earthquake and volcanic activity, fire mobilizations, hazardous materials incidents, and severe weather notification.

The February 28, 2001 Nisqually Earthquake tested the local, state, and federal governments' emergency response and recovery capabilities to a significant level. The absence of any requests for assistance from the impacted local jurisdictions is testimony to the state's high level of preparedness for responding to disasters and emergencies.

Shortfalls and the Impacts: The shortfalls and vulnerabilities present a very high risk to public safety. The Military Department and EMD are currently addressing the issues of disaster recovery, planning, and interoperability with federal, state, and local governments.

Through the Department of Information Systems, a State Interoperability Executive Committee (SIEC) was formed to address interoperability concerns within Washington State.

- Mutual aid and task force interoperability at all levels and on all systems needs improvement. In the event of a major disaster, current systems will become overloaded resulting in probable disruptions. Immediately following the 2001 Nisqually Earthquake, local calling was severely restricted and cell phones were largely inoperable.
- ➤ Loss of life can be directly attributed to the responders' inability to effectively communicate with each other. There is a critical need for all levels of federal, state, and local governments to communicate effectively with each other during an emergency or disaster.
- Many local and state government agencies lack internal disaster recovery plans. Feedback received after the Nisqually Earthquake indicates this lack of preparedness significantly challenged these agencies in providing ongoing government services in the weeks and months following the event.
- Establish a state Homeland Security Task Force and a comprehensive and collaborative state Homeland Security strategy.
- ➤ Implement a Homeland Security Advisory System and develop a state Homeland Security Regional Training Institute.
- Deploy a statewide incident management system across all disciplines.

SEARCH AND RESCUE VOLUNTEERS

The 8,000+ volunteer Search and Rescue (SAR) members provide SAR services through Washington State. SAR members work under law enforcement and the Department of Emergency Management. Members search for, rescue, or recover by ground,

marine, or air any person who becomes lost, injured, or is killed while outdoors or as a result of natural, technological, or human-caused disasters. There were approximately 700 land missions in 2001.

The volunteer SAR organizations can be used in conjunction with any emergency management mission. The EMC representative provides expert information on the level of readiness for search and rescue personnel. They advise the EMC where SAR volunteers are best able to respond to an emergency.

Emergency Preparedness Strengths:

- Dedicated volunteers who are highly skilled in many specialties to include mountain rescue, winter operations, wilderness search, evidence search, urban SAR, disaster SAR, technical rescue, canine, horse-mounted, 4x4, swiftwater, dive, communications, fire services, aviation support, medical, logistics, SAR planning, and incident command.
- SAR services complement and enhance local law enforcement search and rescue operations.
- ➤ Washington's SAR organization has implemented many procedures and operations that are used as models by many states throughout the nation.
- SAR services are provided to state and local law enforcement agencies free of charge, saving agencies and taxpayers) hundreds of thousands of budget dollars each year. There are approximately 700 land missions alone each year.

Shortfalls and the Impacts:

SAR resources come primarily from the volunteers.

- ➤ Funding is no longer available for the state SAR conference. This conference provided training opportunities for SAR members to maintain and enhance their skill levels.
- ➤ Funding was not available to the SAR community for Terrorism Response Training in 2001.

As a result of budget restrictions and cutbacks, state and local agencies are increasing their reliance on SAR responders. Without training for terrorism response and to maintain/enhance skills, responders cannot operate safely and effectively. This could pose a high risk to public safety and place the responders in dangerous situations.

SHERIFFS AND POLICE CHIEFS

Sheriffs and police chiefs work to prevent crime and arrest those who commit crime, maintain order, and protect the safety of persons and property. Within the State of Washington, the Washington Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs (WASPC) represents local sheriffs and police chiefs. One of their primary objectives in 2001 was to develop initiatives that improve the emergency preparedness and response capabilities of the state's law enforcement agencies.

In their role on the EMC, Sheriffs and Police Chiefs provide information on how local and state law enforcement resources are utilized in regional and statewide disasters.

Emergency Preparedness Strengths: Many sheriff and police departments have expertise in Security Response Teams, Explosive Device Units or Bomb Disposal Units, Major Crimes Units, marine units, Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT), mounted patrol, and search and rescue.

The WASPC Intelligence Committee is developing an increased criminal intelligence capability on a statewide basis. They have developed regionally based intelligence units using the Spokane Regional Intelligence Unit as a model. These units are associated with the FBI lead Joint Terrorism Task Force and the U.S. Attorney's Anti-Terrorism Task Forces.

Shortfalls and the Impacts:

- After the September 11th attacks, the need for a well-structured and exercised threat warning process was identified.
- ➤ Washington does not have a plan for widespread mobilization of law enforcement resources in the event of a major emergency.
- Some state agencies have mutual aid agreements with law enforcement agencies, but they are not sufficient for major disasters or emergencies.
- ➤ There is a lack of interoperability between federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies.
- Funding constraints have restricted the training and equipment needed to meet the increased threats created by the war on terrorism.

These shortfalls increase the risk for loss of life and property of citizens and the chance of injury or death to first responders and law enforcement officers.

STATE FIRE MARSHAL

The Office of the State Fire Marshal provides response capabilities, logistics, and support during emergencies and disasters. During summer 2001 this Office activated the State Fire Service Mobilization Plan for many of the multiple fire complexes that occurred on the state's east side. The representative to the EMC keeps the Council advised on statewide firefighting resources.

Emergency Preparedness Strengths: The Office's Emergency Mobilization Section is comprised of the Terrorism, Hazardous Materials, and Wildland Fire Mobilization Units. This section has access to the five state Integrated Incident Management Teams, statewide fire resources, and logistical support.

Shortfalls and the Impacts:

- There is no funding mechanism for preparedness, response, or administrative functions for state mobilizations. This affects the level of training and availability of equipment for response personnel.
- The technology currently used for many of the communication systems is old, inadequate (especially in terms of interoperability), and is no longer supported by the manufacturers.

The inability to respond to incidents without adequate preparation, training, or equipment poses a substantial threat to first responders and the public. Due to the lack of interoperability, significant adverse impacts will occur if an emergency response to a major disaster requires a joint coordinated effort with other state, federal, or local agencies.

STATE AND LOCAL EMERGENCY MANAGERS

Role: State and Local Emergency Managers coordinate and facilitate organized efforts to mitigate against, prepare for, respond to, and recover from all technological or natural disasters that may occur in a jurisdiction. The EMC representative keeps the Council informed of the level of readiness in the local jurisdictions and of the issues and challenges faced by state and local emergency managers.

Emergency Preparedness Strengths: The state and local Emergency Management Directors have an unwavering commitment to emergency preparedness. They continually improve their programs and strengthen their preparedness capability at both the local and state level. The Washington State Emergency Management Association (WSEMA) plays an integral role in fostering emergency preparedness partnerships in Washington State. Washington State's EMDsponsored training assists local jurisdictions in their emergency preparedness efforts. The State Emergency Response Commission (SERC) and the Committee on Terrorism (COT) are examples of programs in this state that provide leadership and assistance to local emergency managers relative to hazard-specific issues such as Hazardous Materials and Terrorism.

Shortfalls and the Impacts:

Emergency managers face challenges that often make it difficult to meet the emergency preparedness needs of individual communities while balancing those needs with the federal and state mandates for local emergency management programs.

- ➤ One challenge includes inadequate support for emergency management professionals by federal, state, and local governmental officials. Funding and resource shortfalls have impeded the ability of emergency managers to comply with the letter of the law and meet our citizens' needs.
- Local needs must be balanced with federal and state mandates to maintain local emergency management programs.
- Many counties lack a viable preparedness program that addresses their hazards.

 Jurisdictions do not have adequate resources to mitigate against, plan for, respond to, and recover from all hazards that create a risk.
- Funding cuts and difficulties recruiting volunteers have impacted volunteer organizations, often requiring them to decrease the level of support they can provide when a disaster occurs.

Shortfalls in emergency management directly impact our citizens who are often uninformed

about the hazards in their community. The public and private sectors continue to suffer property losses and unnecessary injuries and/or death as a result of disasters.

WASHINGTON STATE PATROL

Role: The Washington State Patrol and State Fire Marshal have response capabilities and provide logistics and support. They respond to mobilizations, trains first responders, and manage crime scenes and civil disobedience. The Washington State Patrol (WSP) has an explosives unit with K-9s, conducts criminal investigations, has narcotic task forces, crime laboratories, and maintains transportation safety.

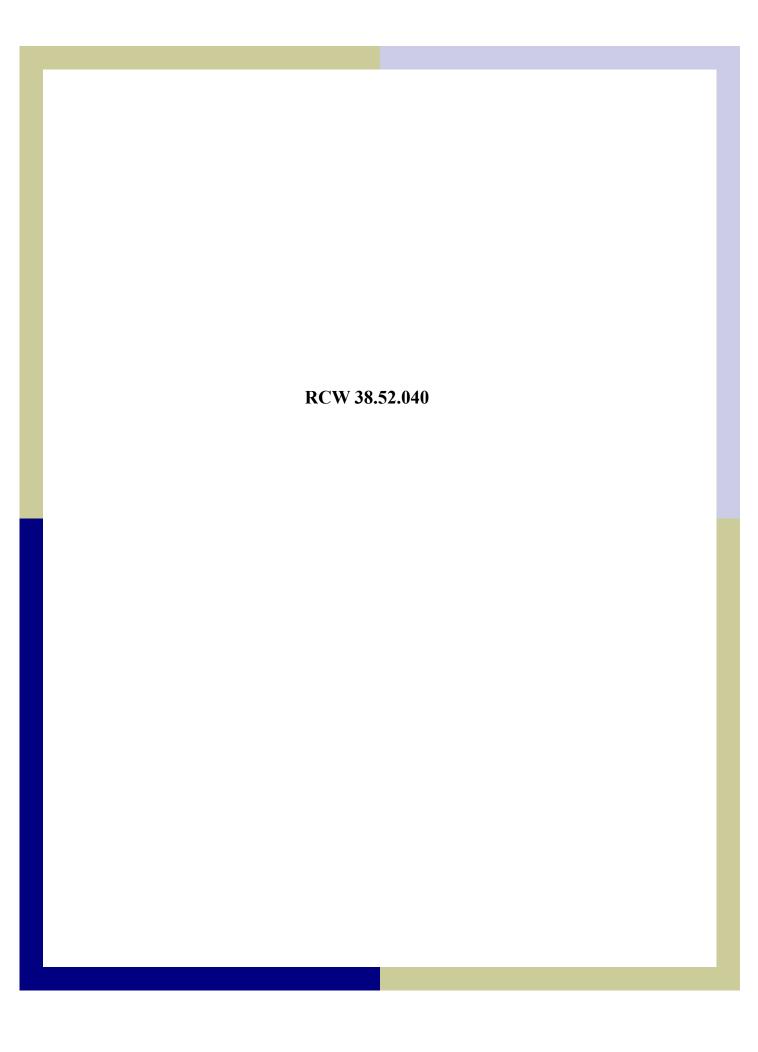
Emergency Preparedness Strengths: The Emergency Mobilization Section is located in the Office of the State Fire Marshall and has the ability to respond to any state declared emergency. The Statewide Incident Response Teams (SIRT) are trained and equipped to handle chemical, biohazard, and tactical incidents. There are two teams — one in eastern Washington and one in Olympia. WSP manages eight statewide bomb squads, including four bomb dogs and handlers.

The WSP operates a central computerized enforcement service system (ACCESS) that provides a telecommunication linkage for all law enforcement and criminal justice agencies in Washington. This system allows contact with other law enforcement agencies throughout the nation. WSP's statewide communication systems include digital and analog microwaves and a VHF land/mobile radio system. These systems have been built to survive natural disasters.

Shortfalls and the Impacts: WSP and the State Fire Marshal's office are facing funding and training dilemmas that are similar to other state and local agencies.

- There is no funding mechanism for preparedness, response, or administrative functions for state mobilizations.
- There are training and equipment needs for the Explosive Units and the SIRTs.
- ➤ Budgetary constraints have prevented computer system upgrades to provide expanded services or

disaster recovery. Current technology allows for file transfers for documents and digital images. WSP has been unable to purchase this current technology.
➤Old, inadequate technology is past the life expectancy and is no longer supported by the manufacturers. Accurate and timely information is sometimes delayed, or is not available.
The inability to responds to incidents without adequate preparation, training, or equipment poses a substantial threat to first responders and the public. The most immediate risk is a failure of the ACCESS system from a terrorist attack or natural disaster.



RCW 38.52.040

Emergency management council -- Members -- Ad hoc committees -- Function as state emergency response commission -- Rules review.

- (1) There is hereby created the emergency management council (hereinafter called the council), to consist of not more than seventeen members who shall be appointed by the governor. The membership of the council shall include, but not be limited to, representatives of city and county governments, sheriffs and police chiefs, the Washington state patrol, the military department, the department of ecology, state and local fire chiefs, seismic safety experts, state and local emergency management directors, search and rescue volunteers, medical professions who have expertise in emergency medical care, building officials, and private industry. The representatives of private industry shall include persons knowledgeable in emergency and hazardous materials management. The council members shall elect a chairman from within the council membership. The members of the council shall serve without compensation, but may be reimbursed for their travel expenses incurred in the performance of their duties in accordance with RCW 43.03.050 and 43.03.060 as now existing or hereafter amended.
- (2) The emergency management council shall advise the governor and the director on all matters pertaining to state and local emergency management. The council may appoint such ad hoc committees, subcommittees, and working groups as are required to develop specific recommendations for the improvement of emergency management practices, standards, policies, or procedures. The council shall ensure that the governor receives an annual assessment of state-wide emergency preparedness including, but not limited to, specific progress on hazard mitigation and reduction efforts, implementation of seismic safety improvements, reduction of flood hazards, and coordination of hazardous materials planning and response activities. The council or a subcommittee thereof shall periodically convene in special session and serve during those sessions as the state emergency response commission required by P.L. 99-499, the emergency planning and community right-to-know act. When sitting in session as the state emergency response commission, the council shall confine its deliberations to those items specified in federal statutes and state administrative rules governing the coordination of hazardous materials policy. The council shall review administrative rules governing state and local emergency management practices and recommend necessary revisions to the director

[1995 c 269 § 1202; 1988 c 81 § 18; 1984 c 38 § 5; 1979 ex.s. c 57 § 8; 1975-'76 2nd ex.s. c 34 § 82; 1974 ex.s. c 171 § 6; 1951 c 178 § 5.]

NOTES:

Effective date -- 1995 c 269: See note following RCW 9.94A.850.

Part headings not law -- Severability -- 1995 c 269: See notes following RCW 13.40.005.

Effective date -- Severability -- 1975-'76 2nd ex.s. c 34: See notes following RCW 2.08.115.